

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 00950 201827Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OFA-01 SAL-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-04 /066 W
----- 056717

O 201813Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8280

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00950

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, NAC, IC, UK, EFIS, PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: UK-IAELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

1. FCO GAVE US FURTHER DETAILS JANUARY 20 ON FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S SURPRISE DECISION TO WITHDRAW FRIGATES AND NIMRODS. DESPITE BRITISH HOPES TO THE CONTRARY, LUNS DID NOT RETURN FROM ICELAND WITH ANY PRECISE ASSURANCE FROM GOI THAT ICELANDIC HARASSMENT OF TRAWLERS WOULD END WITH DEPARTURE OF ROYAL NAVY FROM DISPUTED WATERS. RATHER, HE INDICATED TO BRITISH HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT UK CONCILIATORY ACT WOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY GOI. FACING CONTINUED DETERIORATION OF SITUATION, AND PROBABLE BREAK IN RELATIONS, CALLAGHAN DECIDED TO GAMBLE THAT ICELANDERS ALSO WANTED TO AVOID CONTINUANCE OF WORST CASE SCENARIO.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY'S DECISION TO PULL OUT NAVY WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 00950 201827Z

BASED ON THREE SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS: (1) THE WISH TO

ISOLATE THE RADICALS IN THE GOI AND SUPPORT, THROUGH THIS CONCILIATORY GESTURE, THE MORE MODERATE VIEWS OF PRIME MINISTER HALLERIMSSON; (2) THE DESIRE TO SHOW ITS NATO ALLIES THAT BPITAIN, IN THE FACE OF ICELANDIC RIGIDITY, WAS WILLING TM MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE; AND (3) THE BELIEF THAT IF IN THE FACE OF THIS BRITISH MOVE. THE ICELANDERS CONTINUED TO REFUSE COMPROMISE, NATO OPINION, AT PRESENT ON THE SIDE OF ICELAND, WOULD SHIFT TO THE UK.

3. HMG IS UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT EVEN IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED IAE LANDERS WILL BE IN MOOD TO COMPROMISE ON TONNAGE. ONE SOURCE IN FCO SAID IT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT IF GOI REESTABLISHED ITS EARLIER OFFER OF 65,000 TONS. EVEN SO, BRITISH, WHO CONTINUE TO ALMOST PLAINTIVELY EXPRESS THEIR DESIRE TO REACH SETTLEMENT, BELIEVE THEY HAVE NOW DONE EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER -- SHORT OF ABSOLUTE AND HUMILIATING CAPITULATION -- TO TRY TO AVOID A BREAK IN RELATIONS AND FURTHER DAMAGE TO NATO SOLIDARITY. IT IS NOW. THEY SAY, UP TO ICELAND.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON00950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760021-0369
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760141/aaaabkjh.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UK-IAELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, AO, NATO, NAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006